

# STARS AND STRIPES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

## Attackers fire missile at U.S. plane

BY STEVEN R. HURST

*The Associated Press*

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In a marked escalation in attacks, suspected insurgents on Wednesday tried to shoot down a U.S. transport plane with a surface-to-air missile, killed an American soldier in a convoy and gunned down the pro-American mayor of a city in the restive "Sunni Triangle."

The violence came on the eve of a banned holiday when Saddam Hussein loyalists were expected to demonstrate their power.

The U.S. military said one surface-to-air missile was fired on a C-130 transport as it landed at Baghdad International Airport. Spc. Giovanni Lorente said he could not say where the plane was arriving from or whether it was carrying passengers, cargo or both. Lorente said it was only the second known missile attack on a plane using the airport since Baghdad fell to U.S. forces April 9.

In Hadithah, Mayor Mohammed Nayil al-Jurayfi's car was ambushed about 2 p.m. by unidentified attackers firing automatic rifles as he drove away from his office with one of his nine sons, police Capt. Khudhier Mohammed said. Hadithah, a city of about 150,000, is 150 miles northwest of Baghdad on the road to Syria.

Mohammed said the mayor was killed because "he was seizing cars from those that used to work at the president's [Saddam Hussein's] office" in Hadithah, one of several cities in the so-called "Sunni Triangle," so named because it contains the bulk of active supporters of Saddam, whose Sunni Muslim minority ran the country until April 9.

The American soldier was killed and three others were injured in a rocket-propelled grenade attack west of Baghdad near the Abu Ghraib prison, a U.S. military spokesman said. In a separate attack, an 8-year-old Iraqi child died when an assailant threw a grenade into a U.S. military vehicle guarding a bank in west Baghdad.

The U.S. driver of the vehicle was wounded along with four adult Iraqi bystanders, according to a U.S. officer, said Maj. Kevin West of the 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery.

"They're killing more Iraqis than they are Americans," West said, shaking his head.

The Hadithah police captain, whose station house sits next to the mayor's office, said some city government employees received a leaflet Wednesday morning warning them not to go to work.

The leaflets were signed by "Liberating Iraq's Army." A day earlier, a member of the previously un-



DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS/AP

**Army Sgt. Diego Baez, right, weeps after his best friend was killed in an explosion Wednesday when their truck was making its way along the main highway near the town of Abu Ghraib, Iraq. Two other soldiers were injured in the attack.**

heard of organization went on Dubai-based Al-Arabiya television and promised retribution against any country that sends peacekeeping troops.

He read a letter directed to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and said peacekeepers would be attacked

even if they were sent under a U.N. mandate and wearing the world body's traditional blue helmets.

The Arab satellite broadcaster Al-Jazeera, meanwhile, reported that residents of Hadithah had accused the slain mayor of collaborating with coalition forces.

Hadithah shopowner Amir Jafar concurred: "This mayor is an unwanted person," he said. "He doesn't belong to this city. He is from another city and he was cooperating with the Americans."

The attack was certain to have a chilling effect on other Iraqi officials sympathetic to the Americans. One of the members of the newly inaugurated Iraqi Governing Council, hand-picked by the U.S. administrator of Iraq, hails from Hadithah. Samir Shakir Mahmoud, the council member, is a Sunni but was a leading member of the opposition to Saddam.

In Baghdad, former New York police commissioner Bernard Kerik, who is now running the Iraqi interior ministry and working to rebuild police in the country, was asked if he thought Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network was behind the escalating attacks.

"Nobody is identified as al-Qaida yet. Could they be out there? It's possible. The bottom line is I don't care if they're al-Qaida, I don't care if they're [Saddam] Fedayeen [paramilitary]. I don't care if they are Baathists, I don't care who they are. If they attack the coalition and they attack the police, they're going to be arrested or they're going to be killed," Kerik said.

Wednesday's attacks were launched on the eve of a banned holiday that marked the 1968 Baathist coup that led 11 years later to Saddam grabbing power. The July 17 celebration was one of six holidays important to the Baathists that was outlawed by the Governing Council in its first official action.

U.S. soldiers have come under increasingly ferocious attacks by suspected Saddam loyalists in recent weeks — reaching an average of 12 attacks a day.

A total of 33 U.S. soldiers have been killed in hostile action since President Bush declared an end to major hostilities on May 1.

The Pentagon said as of Monday 144 U.S. personnel had been killed in combat since the start of the Iraq war. Since then, at least two U.S. soldiers have been killed in Iraqi attacks, bringing the total just short of the 147 killed in combat during the 1991 Gulf War.

In Wednesday's death, the rocket-propelled grenade blasted into the soldier's truck, hurling him out, as the 20-vehicle convoy passed along a main highway. Soldiers at first believed a bomb was remotely detonated as the convoy passed.

Sgt. Diego Baez, who escaped without injury from the truck, wept over his comrade's death.

"We slept next to each other just last night. He was my best friend," Baez said.

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## CENTCOM commander: Yearlong tours in Iraq possible

BY SANDRA JONTZ

*Stars and Stripes*

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. forces deploying to Iraq could go for as long as one year, Gen. John P. Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, said Wednesday.

"I think if you look at contemplating keeping the force structure stable for a while until the security situation improves, that yearlong deployments are possible for certain units," Abizaid said Wednesday at his first appearance at a Pentagon press briefing.

"Looking at what I contemplate being the force levels for a while, probably for the next 90 days, we need to probably say to our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, 'Here's the maximum extent of your deployment. If we can get you home sooner, we will,'" Abizaid said.

Yearlong deployments were common practice during Vietnam, but had been scaled to typical six-month deployments in recent history. But they're not unprecedented, he said.

The 1st Armored Division, based primarily in Germany, pulled a nearly yearlong deployment to Bosnia and Herzegovina, from December 1995 to November 1996.

"We've done it before, and we can do it again," Abizaid said.

Being up front with troops about their end-dates will be a key point Abizaid plans to discuss with his military leaders when he travels to the region tomorrow, he said.

His promise comes on the heels of fever-pitch tensions surrounding the redeployment dates for soldiers of the Fort Stewart, Ga.-based 3rd Infantry Division, who twice have been told they were going home, only to have hopes dashed when word trickled down that their homecomings were being delayed [see story at right].

"We will bring those troops home by September, certainly out of Iraq by September, and they'll be moving towards home in September," he said.

"And a lot of it, of course, will depend upon the rotational scheme that either the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps or allied coalition forces happen to submit to us in the next week. But we'll know the specific answers to the questions in about a week."

Their return to the United States was delayed because of, in part, intelligence reports in which U.S. military officials expected an escalation of violence in central Iraq between July 14 and 18, the anniversary period for several Iraqi military events. "... [W]e could expect a lot of activity from Ba'athist government [supporters], and we were picking up a lot of information that indicated there were significant terrorist groups and activities we were having to be concerned about as well," Abizaid said.

"I believe there's midlevel Baathist, Iraqi intelligence service people, Special Security Organization people, Special Republican Guard people that have organized at the regional level in cellular structure and are conducting what I would describe as a classical guerrilla-type campaign against us," Abizaid said. "It's low-intensity conflict, in our doctrinal terms, but it's war, however you describe it."

He said he reported to Pentagon leaders that "it would not be prudent at that time" to diminish the force presence, which consists of roughly 148,000 U.S. forces and 13,000 coalition forces.

Abizaid, who assumed leadership of CENTCOM July 7 from retired Gen. Tommy Franks, echoed the Pentagon's assertions that two brigades of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division left in Iraq will be heading home by September.

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# Navy: Some drug users slip through the cracks

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Despite frequent random tests and more sophisticated detection systems, some drug users are slipping through cracks in the system, Navy officials said Tuesday.

Among the holes: The Navy drug tests do not screen for steroids or hallucinogenic mushrooms. Tests for those substances, among others, are only done by special requests, a top official with the service's testing program said at a nationwide drug summit here.

"The Department of Defense program spells out what drugs we test for, but that list was drawn up 15 years ago," said Lt. Cmdr. Dan Hoey of the Navy Drug Screening Laboratories. "Problems with steroids, for example, are a later development. Between the cost and bureaucracy, it's not easy to add things to the DOD testing list."

Testing a urine sample for steroids, Hoey said, would add \$100 to \$150 to the cost of a normal drug screening.

"You have to take a look at the threat and the gains that you're going to make. It could be a case of diminishing returns," he said.

Of greater concern in Japan, said many who attended the conference, is the prevalence of mushrooms, which were only made illegal in Japan last year but are still readily available on the street.

Hoey said the drug-testing centers were willing to work with particular commands on concerns. "If there is a perceived problem in a local area, we want to make them special cases," he said.

In his presentation to drug and alcohol counselors from commands throughout the region, Hoey also detailed a variety of methods sailors use to try and "beat the system."

Some attempt to mask drugs with large quantities of water and substanc-

es purchased on the Internet; others strap bladder bags to their thighs containing "clean" urine; some simply leave the cap of a specimen jar loose, hoping its contents will spill out during shipment to a drug-testing lab.

"I always say that you have to treat testing like a tactical operation," Hoey said. "It's a cat-and-mouse game."

Another problem, officials said, is that not all positive test results are reported to higher commands.

According to Linda Boswell, the U.S. Pacific Fleet's alcohol and drug control officer, 3,100 Pacific Fleet sailors failed a drug test in fiscal 2002. But only 1,126 DAARS — drug and alcohol incident reports that commands are required to file in such cases — were submitted.

Some summit participants were surprised at that figure. Others weren't, saying their normal workload sometimes pushes such duties to the back of their minds. Overall, the attendees said, the summit offered several new ideas.

"One of the things is the 'health and comfort inspections' on things that are brought back from liberty," said Petty Officer 1st Class Rozalia Jordan, the alcohol and drug program officer for the USS Cowpens.

"Also, it's good to know about the different programs and resources that we can have while we're under way."

Other participants were surprised by the cost of illegal drugs in Japan. According to Stacey Nelson, a Yokosuka-based investigator with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, one dose of LSD would cost between \$2 and \$10 in the United States. In Japan, that same dose costs between \$25 and \$200.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't deter people from buying those drugs, since they have some disposable income from living on the ship," Nelson said. "And it encourages some of these young sailors and Marines to get into business for themselves."

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## News tracker: What's new with old news

### Nation

**Videotaped arrest:** Prosecutors wrapped up their case against two police officers involved in the videotaped beating of a handcuffed teenager with testimony from a police chief who said one of the officers used unnecessary force.

Inglewood, Calif., Police Chief Ron Banks testified Tuesday that Officer Jeremy Morse was acting outside of department policy when he lifted the handcuffed teen and slammed him onto a car during an arrest.

The chief called Morse's actions unreasonable, based on his analysis of a videotape of the July 6, 2002, arrest that was recorded by a bystander.

Donovan Jackson, 17, who was filmed being punched and slammed against a police car July 6, 2002, testified earlier that he was choked unconscious and doesn't remember much of the attack.

Defense attorneys maintain that Jackson attacked officers, leading to a scuffle on the ground.

Jackson denied striking or causing any injuries to the officers.

**California family killings:** A woman who had a child with the man suspected in the killings of five family members has filed for full custody of the 14-year-old girl, saying she is concerned about her daughter's safety.

Shann Kern, a former girlfriend of Vincent Brothers, filed for an emergency order Friday seeking full custody of Margaret Kern-Brothers. The two had joint custody of the girl.

A judge ordered the case sealed Tuesday, and Kern said she could not specify what he had ruled, other than to say she was satisfied.

She said she has felt scared ever since Brothers' family was found dead last week.

No charges have been filed in the case.

**Arizona wildfires:** Firefighters were concerned Wednesday about wind, lightning and a lack of rain as they battled a blaze that forced thousands of people to leave their homes on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

The 14,250-acre blaze had gotten to within about a third of a mile of homes around Whiteriver, headquarters of the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Elsewhere in the Southwest, Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado was closed to visitors for the second time in two years because of wildfires and authorities said Wednesday the flames threatened the park's historic ruins.

**High school hazing:** A teenager who authorities said brought kegs of beer to a park where a violent hazing incident took place pleaded guilty Tuesday to unlawful possession of alcohol by a minor.

Grant Lustig, 18, was sentenced to two years probation, ordered to perform 30 days community service and undergo alcohol evaluation after pleading guilty to the misdemeanor.

The incident gained worldwide attention as videotape was played repeatedly on news programs. The tape shows junior girls from Glenbrook North High School being covered with mud, paint, feces and garbage as onlookers, some hoisting beer cups, cheered.

**Hoffa investigation:** Nearly 28 years after ex-Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa disappeared, law enforcement officials dug into the ground outside a home Wednesday to search for evidence, a prosecutor said.

Authorities from Oakland County were acting on a search warrant obtained Tuesday, county prosecutor David Gorceyca said.

"We have some information that's come to us from a prisoner that's related to the Hoffa case," county Sheriff Michael Bouchard said.

He said the prisoner provided the information in the past few days, and

"we're skeptical, but feel we need to check it out." He added that the prisoner had provided credible information on other cases.

### War on terrorism

**Arrests in Afghanistan:** Twelve suspected Taliban fighters have been captured by Afghan security forces scouring mountains and searching homes for attackers who killed five officers in a raid on a police headquarters in Kandahar, an official said Wednesday.

The operation was launched Tuesday in Ghorak district, the day after the raid, said Gen. Mohammad Salim Khan, deputy chief of police in Kandahar.

About 400 police and army soldiers, armed with assault rifles, mortars and machine guns, were taking part in the operation, Khan said.

### World

**Kashmir unrest:** Three small Islamic militant groups fighting Indian rule in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir have merged into a new organization threatening to step up attacks aimed at winning independence, a spokesman for the group said Wednesday.

The new organization called Kashmir Freedom Force plans to launch "coordinated attacks on Indian forces to oust them from Kashmir," Meraj Din told The Associated Press by cellular phone from an undisclosed location.

Din said the new organization comprises Islamic Front, Al-Barq and Tehrik ul-Jihad. They claim to have hundreds of armed men operating in India's part of Kashmir, a region of the Himalayas.

**Same-sex marriages:** Thanking Canada for letting them marry, two Los Angeles men exchanged vows Wednesday in a tearful ceremony at a Toronto church associated with the homosexual community.

The Rev. Troy Perry married partner Phillip De Bleeck, an airline worker, at the Toronto parish of the Metropolitan Community Churches. Perry founded the worldwide church in Los Angeles in 1968.

They traveled to Toronto because Ontario is one of two Canadian provinces that have legalized homosexual marriage under recent court rulings.

**Afghan-Pakistani border:** Senior officials from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States agreed Tuesday to send a joint team to investigate border clashes between Afghan and Pakistani forces that have increased tensions, a U.S. statement said. The team will investigate the clashes within a week and report back, said a statement issued by the U.S. military at Bagram air base, Afghanistan.

**Cloned sheep:** Dolly the sheep, the first mammal cloned from an adult, went on temporary display Tuesday at the Museum of Scottish Country Life near Glasgow, Scotland. Dolly who was stuffed after dying this year.

**Iranian nukes:** An Iranian diplomat in Moscow said Tuesday that Tehran "relates positively" to calls for it to sign a protocol allowing for closer inspections of its nuclear facilities, the Interfax news agency reported, but he added a qualifier and Iran has not signed the document despite similar statements in the past.

Amid international concern that Iran might be pursuing nuclear weapons, the International Atomic Energy Agency wants Iran to permit agency inspectors to visit any part of its nuclear industry without prior notice.

**Marcos accounts settlement:** The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday awarded the Philippine government the frozen Swiss bank deposits of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, which had ballooned to \$658.2 million early last year.

From wire reports

## Australian troops end combat role in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The third largest contributor to the coalition that toppled Saddam Hussein announced Wednesday that its forces will now be used primarily in support roles.

"Australia has ended combat operations and has now moved into the next phase," said Air Cmdr. Graham Bentley, the country's top officer in the region.

Bentley, the equivalent of a one-star general in the American military, acknowledged that there is still isolated fighting in the country, but said Australian troops will not play active combat roles.

"It doesn't mean the war is over," he said.

And it doesn't mean Australian forces are leaving the country — at least not all of them. Fighter aircraft and special operations personnel who took part in the fight to drive Saddam from power have returned home. Most, if not all, of the current personnel in the region won't spend the new year in Iraq. Bentley said tours last from three to six months.

From staff reports

## Iraq

Continued from Page 1

The convoy, made up of reservists from a supply unit based in Puerto Rico, had been heading to a U.S. base near the Jordanian border.

"We need more protection. We've seen enough. We've stayed in Iraq long enough," said Spc. Carlos McKenzie, a member of the convoy.

Also on Wednesday, a U.S. Marine died in the southern city of Hilla when he fell from the roof of a building he was guarding, the military said. The soldier was taken to a hospital but died of his injuries.

The deaths highlighted the long and painful road left for coalition forces as they try to stabilize Iraq.

The new Governing Council — Iraq's first postwar national body — met again Wednesday and talked with L. Paul Bremer for three hours about ways to improve security in the country, the American administrator said, without giving details.

U.N. officials said a council delegation would visit the Security Council on July 22, when the world body is to discuss its role in postwar Iraq.



# News from around the war

## General: U.S. facing guerrilla warfare

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces are facing a "classical guerrilla-type war situation" in Iraq against opponents ranging from members of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party to non-Iraqi fighters from terrorist groups, the new American commander said Wednesday.

The statement from Gen. John Abizaid was the first acknowledgment from a top military official that the attacks on American forces were anything more than scattered, sporadic incidents. He said attackers were becoming better organized.

Abizaid took over last week as head of U.S. Central Command, the regional military command overseeing the conflicts in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He had been the No. 2 general at Central Command during both wars, serving under retiring Gen. Tommy Franks.

While the attacks on U.S. forces are becoming increasingly sophisticated, they are nothing the American troops can't handle, Abizaid said.

"They're not driving us out of anywhere," the general said.

## Slain GI remembered

FRIEDBERG, Germany — David and Mary Parson would have marked their sixth wedding anniversary Thursday, albeit apart.

But instead of celebrating, Mary Parson is mourning her husband, a 1st Armored Division soldier who died in combat this month in Baghdad, Iraq. David Bryan Parson of the 1st Battalion, 37 Armored Regiment, was 30.

"David will not be coming home," Lt. Col. Garry Bishop, the battalion commander, wrote in a letter read by Capt. Noel Gorospe, "but he will live forever."

Parson died the evening of July 6 when two men in the Adhamiyah neighborhood of northern Baghdad ambushed his squad. There are conflicting details about what happened.

One account had Parson and his squad coming under fire during a house raid. Another report spoke of a chase during which Parson, the squad leader, was shot and killed. Soldiers reportedly killed one of the gunmen and wounded the other.

"It's a terrible thing to die alone on the other side of the world," Chaplain (Maj.) Marshall Peterson said during the service, "but David wasn't alone. ... He led from the front and he paid the price, but he wasn't alone."

God, Peterson said, was with Parson the whole time.

Speaking directly to Mary Parson, who was seated in the front row, the chaplain said: "You are heaven's VIP today."

Parson is survived by his wife and three children: a daughter, Majalya, and sons Fischer and Wilson.

## Soldier killed in Iraq ambush

SOPERTON, Ga. — A Georgia soldier was killed during an ambush while he was on night patrol at the Baghdad airport in Iraq, the Department of Defense said Tuesday.

Army Sgt. Michael Tyrone Crockett, 27, was returning from an overnight patrol Monday when his unit was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades. Ten other soldiers in the convoy were wounded, three seriously.

Crockett was in a 2½-ton truck that was hit by a grenade, said his wife, Tracey Crockett, who had talked

to Army officials. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division based out of Fort Stewart.

She found out her husband had been killed when soldiers knocked on her door in Soperton on Monday, just hours after she had received a dozen red roses sent overseas from her husband.

"He always sent me red roses," she said Tuesday. "He loved to spoil me, and after his son was born, he spoiled him, too."

The 3½-year-old boy, Michael Tyrone Crockett Jr., helped comfort Tracey Crockett while they spent time with her parents in Tomball, Texas, she said.

Crockett was the 36th soldier with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) to be killed in Iraq. He's the 32nd American soldier killed in hostile action since President Bush declared an end to major fighting.

His mother, Maxine Crockett, sent her son off to war in December with a hug and a kiss.

"He told me he was too old for that, but he kissed me," she said. "I told him we weren't going to say goodbye, we're going to say, 'See you later.'"

"So he said, 'See you later.'"

## Fallen Marine honored

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — An 18-year-old Tampa man who lost his life in Iraq after putting off a full scholarship at Florida State University to serve in the Marines was saluted Tuesday as an honorary alumnus at the school.

The university also announced it was renaming five Boys State scholarships in honor of Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew Aviles, who was killed April 7 while crossing a bridge with the 4th Marine Assault Amphibian Battalion.

"He truly embodies the qualities this university tries so hard to teach," student body president Patrick Sullivan of Gainesville said.

Andrew chose the route to serve his country to keep us free," Florida State President T.K. Wetherell said. "He did not get to realize his dream of becoming an FSU Seminole."

Aviles attended orientation last summer before heading to Marine training in the fall.

Wetherell produced surprise and smiles at the somber event when he announced he was awarding 17-year-old Matthew Aviles, a rising senior at Tampa's Robinson High School, a full four-year scholarship at Florida State "absent any application."

The older Aviles was posthumously decorated with a Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for Superior Performance in the Line of Duty.

## Soldier dies in Iraq

WASHINGTON — A 20-year-old soldier from Colleyville, Texas, died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Defense Department said Tuesday.

Spc. Christian C. Schulz died Friday in Baqubah, Iraq, as a result of non-combat injuries.

The DOD had no further details and said the accident was under investigation.

Schulz was assigned to the 67th Armor Battalion at Fort Hood.

## Group urges U.S. to fight sex crimes

CAIRO, Egypt — U.S. troops must do more for rape victims who are being turned away by Iraqi police and hospitals and the country's reconstruction should include reform of sex crime laws, a human rights group said Tuesday.

Until Iraqi police can do the job themselves, U.S.-led coalition forces should establish a unit of men and women trained to investigate sex crimes and sex trafficking, Human Rights Watch said in a report.

The New York-based group also called on coalition forces to train Iraqi police to better respond to reports of sex crimes. Human Rights Watch said crimes against women have increased along with other crime since Saddam Hussein was ousted in early April.

Those involved in reconstruction should counter any "trends toward treating women and girls unequally before the law and discouraging women and girls from reporting sexual violence, or punishing women and girls for being the victims of crimes of sexual violence," the report said.

The report was based on interviews in May and June in Baghdad with four victims of sexual violence and abduction, as well as with dozens of Iraqi police officers, U.S. military police officers and hospital and other officials.

Human Rights Watch noted that rape and abduction were serious crimes in Iraq. But it said the penal code under Saddam allowed a man to escape punishment for abduction by marrying the victim and set light or reduced sentences for so-called honor killings — the murder of women accused by relatives of besmirching family honor by being raped.

## Monetary cost of war in Iraq

WASHINGTON — The military campaign in Iraq has cost the Pentagon about \$48 billion so far, a number expected to increase by \$10 billion by the end of September, the military's budget chief said Tuesday.

Dov Zakheim, the Defense Department's comptroller, said the estimated cost so far includes the combat phase, which started March 20, postwar stabilization efforts and \$30 billion in prewar expenses such as moving troops to the region and building facilities there.

Although officials have receipts and actual costs only through April, they believe the cost of the military's part of the campaign beginning in January is averaging \$3.9 billion a month.

## No French troops

BRUSSELS, Belgium — France's president Tuesday ruled out sending French troops to Iraq, after India and Germany rejected U.S. calls for help without approval from the United Nations.

In Paris, President Jacques Chirac, a leading opponent of the war, told the Czech president that sending French soldiers to Iraq "cannot be imagined in the current context."

## Missing uranium

UNITED NATIONS — At least 22 pounds of uranium compounds could be missing from a looted Iraqi plant, but U.N. nuclear inspectors said in a report obtained Tuesday that the material could not be used to make nuclear weapons.

The report from the International Atomic Energy Agency could put to rest concerns that looters specifically went after uranium to possibly use for weapons, or that it fell into the wrong hands. The report confirmed that the vast majority of uranium feared stolen from Iraq's largest nuclear research facility at Tuwaitha had been recovered, though it gave no figure.

From staff and wire reports

# Jurisdiction shifted for 101st soldier accused in grenade attack

*The Associated Press*

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — The decision on whether to court-martial a 101st Airborne Division soldier charged in a grenade attack in Kuwait will be handled by a different military body, officials said Wednesday.

Sgt. Hasan Akbar, 32, is charged with two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted murder and could face the death penalty if convicted. It will be up to the new jurisdiction to decide whether he will be court-martialed in the March attack, which killed two.

Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, said in a statement the case is being transferred to the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., because the 101st continues to be busy with operations in

Iraq. The 101st reports to the 18th Airborne Corps.

The public affairs office at Fort Campbell originally stated that Petraeus had signed off on the court-martial, but later said that he only transferred the case.

On June 20, the investigating officer at an Article 32 hearing for Akbar made the recommendation that the case proceed to a court-martial.

Because Petraeus has handed over jurisdiction in the case, it will now be up to the commanding general of the 18th Airborne Corps to determine whether or not to follow the recommendation.

The soldiers killed March 23, in the early days of the war with Iraq, were Army Capt. Christopher Scott Seifert, 27, of Easton, Pa., and Air Force Maj. Gregory Stone, 40, of Boise, Idaho.

It is the first time since the Vietnam War that a U.S. Army soldier has been

prosecuted for the murder or attempted murder of another soldier during a period of war, the Army said.

At the Article 32 hearing at Fort Knox, the investigating officer said a leg injury suffered by Akbar linked him to the attack scene, as did a fingerprint on a generator outside one of the three tents attacked.

Prosecuting attorney Capt. Harper Cook said Akbar stole seven grenades from a Humvee he was guarding, then walked to the brigade operations area an hour later to attack the officers.

"He selected the weapons, he pulled the pins, he threw the grenades and he shot Maj. [Kenneth] Romaine with his rifle," Cook said.

His attack plan "was well-thought out and executed with military precision," Cook said. Romaine was wounded in both hands and his left thigh.

But Akbar's attorney, Lt. Col. Victor Hansen, argued that no eyewitnesses

placed the soldier at the scene, and that other soldiers were too quick to assume — as soon as it was reported that Akbar was missing — that he committed the crime because he is Muslim.

"The Muslim portion is important," Hansen said. He added, "that's the theory they ran with."

He pointed out that two soldiers testified they told investigators that Akbar was not the man they saw shoot Seifert.

One witness said he saw a second shot fired that he thought came from a second shooter.

Hansen said the probe was tainted when Col. Ben Hodges, the brigade commander, told the arriving investigator that a soldier had confessed to the crime because the soldier said American soldiers were going to rape and kill Muslims in Iraq.

Akbar's attorneys have refused to answer questions from reporters.

# Taking care of business

## Troops patrolling Baghdad face daily tests from Iraqis

BY KENT HARRIS

*Stars and Stripes*

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A fenced lot with hundreds of containers of black-market fuel. Dozens of smiling, waving children. An unexploded hand grenade. A turf battle over a motorcycle. A house that must be searched and is full of crying children and wailing women. A suspicious car. A shot in the dark.

As U.S. forces continue to sustain almost daily casualties across Iraq, each group patrolling Iraqi cities still must deal with myriad unforeseen problems. Some fraught with dangers, most not.

"Over the past two weeks, it's been extra quiet around here," said Capt. Roger Maynulet, commander of Company A from the Friedberg, Germany-based 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

Maynulet looks at a large map stuck to his headquarters wall that details the area of east Baghdad that his company has been assigned. His sector comprises two large areas: Hay al-Muthana, a group of neighborhoods consisting largely of retired military officers and other relatively wealthy citizens; and Hay Sumer, a more middle-class neighborhood bordering on an area notorious for black-market activities.

Attacks against Americans patrolling the area, so far, are rare, so rare that Maynulet is more than a little concerned, since he reads reports every day of attacks elsewhere.

And how does he reconcile those reports with his feelings in his sector?

"Good and uneasy," he said. "Good in that I'd like to think it's because we're doing a good job. Concerned, because maybe people are plotting [other attacks] from here and don't want to do something close to home."

"Or that something big is being planned. But I don't think that's the case."

Still, Maynulet says he thinks it might be easy for his soldiers to get a bit complacent. So he has encouraged them to watch the television in a makeshift dining area to get a sense of what's going on in the other areas.

Not that his soldiers aren't encountering problems. Far from it. Because there's wealth in the area, criminals often come in search of easy targets.

"Our main concern is Iraqi-on-Iraqi crime," Maynulet said, referring to heavily armed criminal gangs that terrorize local residents. "They're very observant. They try to keep track of our patrols and hit when we're not around."

So, this night, Maynulet is trying something different. He's flooding the area with a large part of his resources, all at the same time. Soldiers, as always, will be on the lookout for criminal activity. But they'll be expected to deal with all the other routine, though often-unexpected, situations they encounter.

Sgt. Dave Neuzil, who served two tours in Bosnia and Herzegovina, said, "I almost feel like in some ways it was a preview of things to come. I don't think that anyone really knew that at the time."

Neuzil, a member of a scout troop from the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Polk, La., that's currently assigned to Maynulet's company, said he learned things in Bosnia that he can use now.

Neuzil is joined in his Humvee by Spc. Anthony Adams, the driver, and Spc. Anthony Gisi, standing in the center turret behind the machine gun. Another Humvee, commanded by Sgt. Dave Cook, follows.

Maynulet had said earlier that the

## 'I always feel like I'm a target'

KENT HARRIS

*Stars and Stripes*

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Even if they're not coming under constant attack, soldiers patrolling a relatively quiet zone of east Baghdad know they can't afford to get complacent.

"I always feel like I'm a target," says Spc. Anthony Gisi, standing in a Humvee behind the most powerful weapon these soldiers have to defend themselves — a mounted 50-caliber machine gun. "Kind of feel like bait up here in the gunner's hatch."

While Americans in this sector have rarely been attacked, there have been instances elsewhere when others have lost their lives. A soldier mounted in his Humvee was killed Wednesday morning when a bomb exploded in an abandoned car as his vehicle passed by.

More than 33 U.S. servicemembers have been killed in hostile actions since President Bush declared the end of major combat on May 1.

Capt. Roger Maynulet, commander of Company A of the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, points out a bullet hole close to the spot where his flak vest ends below his shoulder joint.

An Iraqi citizen fired a pistol wildly over the wall of his yard one night, to scare away what he thought were thieves approaching his home.

Maynulet wasn't hurt, but the

numbers and types of vehicles on such patrols vary. So do the routes and lengths of the patrols and the times they're conducted. Everything is done to keep potential attackers from figuring out the routine and setting up an ambush. And to find criminals at work.

### Dealing with the mess

The first stop this night for Neuzil's patrol is the local police station. It's one of dozens that have reopened across the city after the Americans ousted Saddam Hussein's regime.

Waleed George, a translator, and Mustafa Ali Kareem, an Iraqi Police Force officer, hop aboard.

The next stop is planned, Neuzil says. On a previous patrol, they encountered a large crowd waiting to buy fuel from a dusty lot holding hundreds of containers stacked together. Some in the crowd claimed the sales weren't being conducted lawfully.

"We didn't have a translator, so it was hard to tell what was going on," Neuzil says. "So I wanted to let the [Iraqi Police Force] know about it."

Neuzil, George and Kareem get out of the Humvees, bang on the gate and wait for someone to show up. A few seconds later, there's a four-way conversation with the employee inside the gate essentially saying nothing illegal has been going on. The three men on the outside saying they'll be watching the place carefully.

The three get back in the Humvees and the patrol continues.

Iraq, by most estimates, is pretty much a mess these days.

Electricity is in short supply. Some are without water. People used to cheap, plentiful fuel (in a country that produces barrels and barrels of it) now wait for hours in line to fill up their cars. Many can take the time to do that, because more people are out of work than are employed.

Americans opened fire. The Iraqi quickly realized who he was dealing with, dropped his gun and apologized.

Sgt. Dave Cook, a scout with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment assigned to Maynulet's company, says he is concerned about being attacked.

"I try not to think about it too much," he says. "If you dwell on it, it's really going to bug you."

Sgt. Dave Neuzil, another scout with the 2nd ACR, recalls a checkpoint incident in June.

A car with four occupants swerved away from the waiting line of cars. It appeared to pick up speed and a soldier had to jump out of its path.

After firing two warning shots, Neuzil and several others around him fired at the vehicle.

The driver and all three passengers were wounded. Their excuse for trying to run the checkpoint? They didn't want to wait in line.

"I think even they were surprised by the fact that we just shot them and now we're putting bandages on them," he says.

It's not something he's particularly proud of. But it's not something he's ashamed of, either.

But a talk with his wife, Jennifer, who is taking care of the couple's young son, Ethan, back in the States, put the incident in some perspective.

"I think she feels that as long as I come home — and not in a casket — she really doesn't care what happens over here."

So the frustration level is pretty high in many parts of Baghdad.

Still, the reaction that Neuzil and his soldiers get as they drive slowly past house after house wouldn't convey that impression.

"Kids, we always get smiles," he says. "The adults ... I'd say it's a little more divided."

### Grenades up ahead

Most of the homes have tall walls and it's difficult to see what's inside each yard from a Humvee. But at many houses where doorways can be seen, Iraqis come out of their homes with a smile and a wave at the Americans.

Those already sitting outside often provide friendly greetings. There are a few frowns. And there are some who try to ignore the patrol entirely and keep their faces free of emotion.

The patrol approaches an improvised roadblock: a strip of metal designed to flatten tires. The soldiers stop. Neuzil starts to ask questions. A crowd gathers.

A house a few steps down the road was hit a few nights earlier by a gang. The residents thwarted the attack with gunfire of their own. U.S. forces have authorized residents to keep a specific amount of weaponry in their homes for just such occasions.

But the neighborhood residents are still scared and angry. Many want to know why the Americans can't be there to protect them when they're needed. The meeting ends peacefully, though.

And the patrol continues. Before leaving the neighborhood, the lead Humvee is waved down by a man gesturing and pointing in the distance. He doesn't speak English, so George jumps out and translates.

There's a grenade somewhere up ahead.

The soldiers return to their Humvees

and are guided by more pointing Iraqis to an area that probably used to be a park next to a busy road. Neuzil, George and Kareem find the grenade, while the others stand guard around the Humvees. Kareem says he recognizes the grenade and that it's not going to explode because the fuse is missing. It's still potentially dangerous, though, so he grabs it, and they return to the Humvee.

### Basic rules apply

In the meantime, a crowd of children has gathered around the military vehicles. Soldiers keep them from getting too close with a few words they've picked up in Arabic. The children demonstrate the few words they know in English, asking for names and — more often — money.

When the children see a camera, they all demand to have their pictures taken. It would be better to have an American soldier stand with them. So Sgt. George McGraw, a medic, obliges.

McGraw and others like him ride along with each patrol, providing medical attention if needed. So far, he says, he hasn't had to treat any Americans.

He does, however, occasionally treat Iraqis. Many are thieves who have been overpowered by their potential victims and are then subjected to mob justice.

As the patrol moves on, Neuzil tells Adams to take a left — across a few dividers and several lanes of traffic. The sergeant acknowledges that if he saw an Iraqi vehicle driving the same way, he wouldn't be happy.

"We tell them they should stop," he says of such maneuvers. "It's very dangerous," though not in a Humvee.

Some of the cars slow down and allow the Americans to pass easily. Others aren't so obliging.

"When we first got here, every car would drive around us," Neuzil says. "Now we've got to fight through [traffic jams] like everyone else."

Adams pulls up on a curb near the police station and the grenade is taken inside.

### Like being on 'Cops'

Cook, the sergeant heading up the second Humvee, stays behind with several others. He soon realizes that something else must be going on, because it's taking Neuzil longer than normal inside.

It turns out there's a problem inside the station. An Iraqi has been stopped riding on a motorcycle formerly used by Saddam's forces. The police have detained him and want the bike.

Neuzil, recognizing the man as someone the Americans had encountered and cleared a few nights earlier, doesn't agree. He calls in Maynulet for support.

A little while later, the captain enters the police station, hears the situation and agrees with his sergeant. The man keeps the bike, because he has proof he paid for it. Maynulet tells an obviously unhappy Iraqi police officer that attempts should be made to track down the ones who sold the man his bike, if they are the ones responsible for stealing government property.

The exchange takes place in relative darkness, because the electricity has gone out. It's dark now, so crossing back across the road is more hazardous — especially since many Iraqis are driving cars with broken headlights.

But Neuzil returns to the Humvees with a new assignment from Maynulet. "It's just like being on 'Cops,'" he says. "Everything is big drama."

Those words prove prophetic a few minutes later.

**See PATROL on Page 5**



# Back from Iraq, some find it hard to cope

BY NORA ZAMICHOW  
AND TONY PERRY

Los Angeles Times

For half his 10-month marriage, Lance Cpl. Sean Rodriguez-Street slogged through the Iraqi desert and fired at enemy soldiers in Baghdad.

Then he came home, and trouble started.

He feels distracted and edgy. He finds himself being rude to his wife, Amanda. He wakes up long before she does, and in the loneliness of those hours, he misses the crisp certainty of military mornings: wake up, eat grub and check weapon.

Rodriguez-Street is among the veterans of the Iraq war who are discovering that short tempers and feelings of alienation may sour the sweetness of coming home.

Some returning servicemen are sleeping less and arguing more.

Others are drinking heavily. One Marine told his fiancée he no longer wanted to have children. One senior Navy petty officer asked his wife for a divorce. Some suspect their spouses have been unfaithful. A number are experiencing flashbacks and other symptoms of combat stress.

In many cases, homecoming is also sweet. For example, Rodriguez-Street, a 21-year-old Camp Pendleton Marine, said there are advantages to being together again with his wife. "It's like being newlyweds all over."

Yet once the flag-waving and rounds of free beers subside, military personnel are feeling the friction of homecoming, and having to renegotiate roles in the family. One Marine planned to resume handling the family's finances, then realized his wife had done just fine. He gave her the bills and took over mowing the lawn.

"Most families get through it without long-term ill effects," said Shelley MacDermid, co-director of the Military Family Research Institute, a Pentagon-funded group at Purdue University. "You can't just flick a switch and say, 'Now, we're going back to the way it was.' There is no returning to normal, because the world has changed."

For a serviceman, shoe-horning himself back into peacetime life entails an attitude adjustment.

"You have to realize that the whole world did not stop while you were away," said Marine Master Sgt. Nicholas Morin, 43, who served with a reconnaissance unit in Iraq. "The whole world can't feel sorry for you because you stood in harm's way."

Re-entry to life at home typically

takes as long as the individual's deployment, MacDermid said.

Some postwar carousing is expected. But the line between celebrating and running amok worries high-ranking military officials.

"My first concern is that the first night out they'll all get drunk and the second night they'll all beat up their wives or girlfriends," said Vice Adm. Tim LaFleur, commander of the Pacific naval surface fleet headquartered in Coronado, just south of San Diego. "We've already seen a rash of 'We won the war and we're going to celebrate' incidents."

At Camp Pendleton, Calif., to which 8,000 of 27,500 deployed Marines have returned, the Marine Corps and Navy have assembled what officials call the most comprehensive array of counseling, therapy and services ever offered to returnees and their families. Dubbed the "warrior transition" program, it includes lectures, seminars and counseling even before Marines and sailors leave Iraq and Kuwait.

Assistance is also being offered to families at Pendleton, where more than 20,000 children have a deployed parent.

"We expect our Marines to return a little more emotionally stressed," said Maj. Scott MacFarlane, part of the "family team building" campaign. "But we're also finding that the stay-at-home spouse is stressed" from watching the war on TV "every day, all day."

Morin, who's spent 24 years in the Marine Corps, says he cannot sleep at night.

A communications chief for a unit that came under sniper fire and fought the Republican Guard, Morin saw Iraqis killed. He also witnessed a land mine blow up, severely injuring three fellow Marines.

Morin's unit worked at night, moving into enemy territory. Although it's been two months since his nocturnal forays, "my sleep cycle hasn't adjusted yet," Morin said. "I find myself awake at night and asleep during the day."

His wife, Master Sgt. Kara Morin, is an administrative chief who's spent 21 years with the Corps. After her husband went to Iraq, Kara Morin made sure nothing — not even the location of knickknacks — changed in their Temecula, Calif., home.

"It's not good to change too much because it's tough to come home and be a stranger in your own house," she said.

The military plans to give special attention to troops coming home from battle. In part, that's a result of the slayings of four wives last summer at

Fort Bragg, N.C., by their soldier husbands, including three Special Forces members who had recently returned from Afghanistan. (Later, three of the men committed suicide.) The Army announced a new program to help returning troops and their families. Supervising officers will use a checklist designed to determine which soldiers might be at risk for alcohol abuse, domestic violence or depression. The Army also plans to open a toll-free phone number through which soldiers and families can reach a counselor.

Not everyone believes these efforts go far enough. The checklist, which some soldiers jokingly refer to as the "Don't-kill-your-wife survey," depends on someone reporting him- or herself.

"Batterers are notoriously known for underreporting," said Christina Hansen, executive director of the Miles Foundation, a Newton, Conn.-based nonprofit organization that specializes in services to victims of domestic violence linked to the military. "They know what to report and not to report. They're not going to check a box that could lead to counseling."

Seeing a therapist carries a stigma in military circles, one counselor said, because it is seen as a sign of weakness.

And unlike the confidentiality guaranteed civilians and their therapists, a commanding officer has the right to know what a servicemember says to a counselor. Mental health specialists are required to report, for example, suspicions that a servicemember might be unfit for duty.

Even for those who do seek help, experts say, there is no single cure for the psychological damage of war. Some tell spouses not to ask returnees too many questions.

Kara Morin found that approach didn't work. One day, she overheard her husband in the driveway telling neighbors about gunfights with Iraqi soldiers — stories she had not yet heard.

"I felt very outside," she said. After that, she began asking questions. Talking helps, other experts say.

On the other hand, Navy Petty Officer David Dimier's work was classified as a government secret. Dimier, 32, an explosives ordnance technician, cleared mines in the captured Iraqi harbor.

Now home in Temecula, Dimier feels alienated. When people ask him questions, he said, he frequently gets the sense that "they don't get it." Dimier, who's been in the Navy seven years, has yet to find the tempo of peacetime life, even though he returned a month ago.

"It's a sense of detachment," he said. "You see everybody's life going on around you and you're not part of it."

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Betty Burns, chief of counseling at Camp Pendleton, said Marines, sailors and their spouses are being warned of the "fantasy of the return."

"We tell them to take time," Burns said. "It's not going to be, 'I'm back home and everything is wonderful.'" Many returnees suffer the greatest let-down in the first weeks after returning, said Navy Capt. Jennifer Berg, chairman of the psychiatry unit at Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

"There is a sense of not fitting in when they come home that is very stressful," Berg said. "After the initial wave of acceptance, interest drops off and people feel detached."

This was true for Rodriguez-Street. Rodriguez-Street was in the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, which was the first Marine unit to storm Baghdad. He shot at Iraqi soldiers and saw the flash of their guns as they fired at him.

But when he returned to Camp Pendleton two weeks ago, it was not the dead who haunted him. It was the Iraqi children who had scammed barefoot to wave hello to the victorious Americans. The kids were so skinny that their bones showed through their skin.

When Rodriguez-Street came home to his wife, Amanda, he sometimes felt unaware of his actions and words. She had written letter after letter, telling him how she was fixing up their apartment.

But when he came home, he said nothing.

Amanda was crushed. He must not like it, she recalled thinking.

"I thought it looked awesome — I have no clue as to why I didn't say anything," Sean Rodriguez-Street said.

He said he felt different. Tiffs with relatives that might have once upset him he let float by. At the same time, he was more emotional. At a cousin's house, he grabbed his wife and, teary-eyed and voice cracking, he told her he was proud of her and loved her so much.

But Amanda Rodriguez-Street realized she was different, too.

In living on her own, she'd become independent. She took up belly dancing, tai chi, and lost 15 pounds on a diet. Her newfound sense of self didn't alienate her from her husband, she said, but made her love him even more.

"I feel closer; there are not many couples in America who go through being separated without contact as we were," she said. "In time, he'll come back around to being Sean, the person he was."

## Patrol: Days in Baghdad filled with variety

Continued from Page 4

### Routine searches

This house is the nicest in the neighborhood. And possibly others are envious, because the Americans have received several tips about those who live inside.

They're Baathists — members of Saddam's political party — it's said. A few nights earlier, a patrol acting on a tip had raided the house. Weapons and a large amount of money was found. Arrests were made, though Neuzil isn't sure what the end result was.

Tonight, the Americans are back. And the residents are not happy about it. The children cry, the women shriek and it's hard to coax everyone out of the home.

Neuzil instructs George to tell everyone it's a routine search, and they'll be finished quickly. The translator takes most of the verbal abuse and frantic questioning from the residents, though

Neuzil and his soldiers get a few angry stares.

Kareem searches through the rooms. Neuzil and Cook quickly spot a group of weapons laid out on a couch inside the second room. It's the same handful of weapons they'd found before. After a little more conversation with the family, it's clear that someone gave the family approval to keep them. So after a quick search, the soldiers meet the family back out in the yard.

George explains that the soldiers might be back, but no one will be arrested this time and nothing will be confiscated. Neuzil passes along his appreciation for the family's cooperation.

### Soldiers, not policemen

The patrol is winding down when Neuzil tells Adams to stop. He's spotted a nice new car, without license plates, parked in a neighborhood that's not so nice.

The Humvees stop, the soldiers get

out and the residents looking down from a third-story balcony start a conversation with George.

Soon, all the men of the household — as well as those from neighboring homes — are gathered around the soldiers downstairs. One of them starts up the car, offers an explanation and the soldiers are satisfied.

But before the soldiers can leave, the residents start to tell them about a drive-by shooting a few nights earlier.

Someone driving a car — loosely matching the description of someone soldiers had heard of causing problems before — had gone by with guns blazing. The residents produce a child, who they say was hit in the head, and was lucky to survive. His mother was shot in the shoulder, the translator says.

The soldiers ask for a description. The residents can provide only scant information. Neuzil, seeing that he's not going to get any details that will help catch anyone, obviously wants to get going again. But he stays a few more minutes to hear them out.

The patrol heads back to the police station to drop off George and Kareem. There, they see some agitated officers staring off into the distance. Someone has just fired a gun, they say.

Neuzil directs his patrol to proceed up a nearby alley where he suspects the gunman had gone. There are a few Iraqis in sight, but the only ones with guns are Kareem and the other policemen.

After a few minutes, Neuzil — who's used to such fruitless chases — turns his patrol around and heads back to the station, and then on to the base camp.

Neuzil and Cook aren't complaining about the night's events.

"We pretty much, as far as I can tell, go out and do things the cops in the States do," Neuzil says.

"Of course, we're soldiers. We're not policemen. So we just try to do the best we can."

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## Marine's accuser received funds on eve of recant

BY DAVID ALLEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

NAHA, Okinawa — The day before Victoria Nakamine recanted a sexual-assault charge she made against a Marine major, \$13,500 was deposited into her bank account, prosecutors said Tuesday.

The money's source, however, was not disclosed and the prosecution later backed away from drawing any direct connections between Nakamine and Maj. Michael Brown, 40, who's on trial for attempting to rape her and then destroying her cell phone when she attempted to call police Nov. 2.

Tuesday also was the first time since he was indicted Dec. 19 that Brown had a chance to testify. But when he took the stand, there was much he didn't want to talk about.

When asked why his statements to police and prosecutors were at odds with his attorney's opening statement in May, Brown refused to discuss any details of the alleged crime.

Brown, assigned to the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force's command element at Camp Courtney, is accused of attempting to rape Nakamine, employed as a barmaid at the base officers club, after she offered him a ride home when the club closed. The incident allegedly occurred on a deserted road near the base.

In a surprise move May 1, Nakamine, testifying via closed-circuit television from another room in the Naha District Court Building, said she did not want to punish Brown and instead wished to read a prepared statement.

The statement, revealed at a hearing two weeks later, alleged that police and prosecutors pressured her to file charges against Brown.

After Tuesday's hearing, Deputy Chief Prosecutor Hiroyuki Kawami said information concerning the deposit of 1.58 million yen into her account was submitted as evidence to show that Nakamine lied to prosecutors when asked whether she had received any monetary assistance from any third parties during the trial.

Nakamine, who had been unemployed since April, said she had not received any payments, Kawami said.

"I would not say that receiving the money made her change her statement," he said. "But she did change her statement, and her testimony in court was not the truth."

"She said that she did not receive any sizable amount of money while she actually did. But we have no intention to prove that she changed her statement because of the money. It is also not necessary to prove who influenced her to change her statement."

"Our goal is to prove that she stated the facts in her original statements."

During Tuesday's hearing, assistant prosecutor Masako Kariya read a statement defending the actions taken by police and prosecution in seeking an indictment against Brown. She said Nakamine, a Filipina married to a Japanese man, understood what she was doing when she filed the complaint against Brown.

Kariya said Nakamine had been swayed by an unnamed third party into changing her story during the trial.

"It is quite clear that when the victim was approached by a third party, she was influenced to make changes to her statement," she said.

She argued that the judges should discount Nakamine's testimony and rely on the statements she made prior to the indictment.

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# 4 killed in Sigonella crash

*Stars and Stripes*

A U.S. military helicopter crashed at 5 p.m. Wednesday near Sigonella Naval Air Station, Sicily.

Defense Department spokesman Lt. Dan Hetlage said in Washington that all four crewmembers aboard were killed. The Associated Press reported. The crewmembers' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The MH-53E Sea Dragon crashed in a field about 10 miles west-southwest of the base near Palagonia, Sicily.

The helicopter is from Heavy Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 4, the "Black Stallions," which provides support to the fleet in the Mediterranean.

Firefighters and base security were at the scene of the accident.

According to the AP, Italian firefighters said the helicopter was engulfed in flames sparked by the crash, which happened shortly after taking off from

Sigonella, and that the fire was put out by Sigonella crews.

The crewmembers' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Sigonella officials said the Navy was investigating the crash.

The Sea Dragon helicopters can carry up to 55 troops or up to 55 tons of cargo. Its missions include sweeping for mines laid at sea.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Ex-Marine arrested; girl reunited with parents

*The Associated Press*

LONDON — The 12-year-old schoolgirl who ran away with a former U.S. Marine she met on the Internet was reunited with her parents on Wednesday, police said shortly after announcing that the Marine had been arrested in Germany.

Shevaun Pennington already was on her way back to Britain when Toby Studabaker, 31, was arrested in downtown Frankfurt, police said.

Police said the girl flew back to Britain from Stuttgart via Amsterdam. Officers from Greater Manchester Police met her at the airport around 2:30 p.m., an hour after Studabaker had been arrested.

She was then taken to a police station in Leigh, near her home, for a reunion with her parents, Stephen and Joanna Pennington.

Shevaun left Britain with Studabaker on Saturday, police said.

Studabaker "was arrested for abduction under the power of an international arrest warrant," police Superintendent Peter Mason told reporters.

Police sources said images of child

pornography were discovered on Studabaker's computer during investigations into the missing pair. The sources also said they had evidence, again taken from Studabaker's computer, that the ex-Marine knew that Shevaun was 12, not 18 or 19, as he had claimed to relatives.

The pair had last been traced to Charles de Gaulle airport near Paris, where they arrived on a flight Saturday.

Shevaun made two phone calls home to her parents in Lowton, northwest England, on Tuesday and earlier Wednesday, saying she was well and not being kept against her will. In the second, she told her parents she was preparing to return to Britain.

"I am not aware that she has been harmed in any way, but again we haven't had the opportunity to speak with her yet," Mason said.

Christian Brockert, a spokesman for the Federal Criminal authorities in Frankfurt, said local police arrested Studabaker on Wednesday afternoon.

The ex-Marine told police upon his arrest that the girl was in an airplane on her way back to Britain.

German authorities are determining

whether the man will be extradited, or whether he would be pressed on charges of child abuse there, Brockert said.

Mason said that British police were "looking at bringing him back to this country."

Earlier Wednesday, Shevaun's mother said she was "relieved" her daughter was still with Studabaker, who police say befriended the schoolgirl via the Internet.

"I'm actually quite relieved that he's still with her in a way because he's obviously helping to look after her. As long as she comes back, she can even come back with him. I'm not bothered," the mother told Sky News TV.

Mason said Shevaun believed she was in a relationship with Studabaker.

"It is a relationship that has developed over a number of months, starting off on Internet chat lines and progressing through to e-mails and personal letters."

Studabaker, of Constantine, Mich., joined the Marines in 2000 and served in an anti-terrorism unit in Afghanistan, said Sgt. Spencer Harris, a spokesman for Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. He was discharged on June 30, Harris said.

## Academy cadet describes attack by Air Force officer

*The Associated Press*

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — An Air Force Academy cadet testified Wednesday that a recent graduate raped her last August after the two drank alcohol at his apartment.

2nd Lt. Ronen Segal, who is assigned to the North American Aerospace Defense Command at nearby Cheyenne Mountain, is the second man associated with the academy to be charged with rape since a sex scandal erupted in February. He faces life in prison if convicted.

The testimony came during a military preliminary hearing to determine whether Segal will be court-martialed on rape and other charges.

The woman said she had been friends with Segal at the academy when she was a freshman and he was a senior. She said she went to his Colorado Springs home after he sent an e-mail asking to get together.

She said she drank at least three glasses of wine and doesn't remember what happened after the two began kissing. She said she regained awareness during the rape, and Segal later took her back to her dorm room.

The defense said the woman testified under an immunity deal protecting her from punishment for lying and other violations of the academy's honor code. Other cadets have said they were punished for alcohol and other code violations when they told commanders they had been assaulted.

Defense attorney Frank Spinner argued the woman's testimony should be barred because of the violations. Instead, the woman was allowed to describe the assault and her talk with a military chaplain at an academy clinic the next day.

"The chaplain said the situation was primarily my fault because I had gone there on my free will," she said. "And I

would have to come to grips with that."

The woman was entering her sophomore year, but withdrew on administrative leave at the Christmas break and has not returned.

The hearing was delayed Tuesday but is expected to wrap up this week.

After the hearing, Army Col. William Sells Jr. will have eight days to recommend whether the case should go to trial. Brig. Gen.

Duane Deal, commander of the 21st Space Wing at Peterson, will make the final decision.

The Air Force, Defense Department and an independent task force have been investigating dozens of alleged sexual assaults at the academy since reports surfaced in February that women were ignored when they said they were assaulted. The academy's top commanders have since been replaced.

### Marine robbed while saving life

HONOLULU — A Marine's valuables were stolen as he and his girlfriend jumped into the waters off Waimea Bay's diving rock to save a teenager from drowning.

Firefighters credit Marine Cpl. Quentin Gwynn, on vacation in Hawaii after serving in the war in Iraq, with saving the 16-year-old Pupukeya boy's life on Monday.

After the commotion of rescuing the boy, Gwynn and his girlfriend, Heather Lehart, realized that someone had stolen her backpack, which contained a camera, identification, money, credit cards and a key to their rented motorcycle.

"It's really hitting home right now. It's disheartening," Gwynn, 21, said Monday night from the Sunset Beach fire station, where they were temporarily stranded.

Gwynn arrived in Hawaii on Sunday aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard. The ship had deployed Jan. 17 for Iraq.

Gwynn said he had been trained to do CPR, but Monday was the first time he had to use it.

### Former cadet settles lawsuit for \$1M

PHILADELPHIA — A former West Point cadet who broke his neck in a railing collapse at Veterans Stadium during the annual Army-Navy game five years ago settled his civil lawsuit against the city for more than \$1 million on Wednesday, just as testimony in the trial was about to begin.

Kevin Galligan, 26, will get \$1.05 million from the city, the company that installed the handrails and the contractor responsible for crowd management at the game.

Army fans had been cheering wildly while being filmed by national TV cameras during a timeout when the railing gave way, causing Galligan to fall 15 feet from the first row of stands to the artificial turf. Eight others were injured.

Galligan was given an honorable medical discharge from the Army, dashing his hopes of becoming an Army Ranger. He suffered a mild brain injury and still has weakness in his neck that prevents him from playing contact sports.

From wire reports



# Cleaning up after Claudette

BY MARK BABINECK

The Associated Press

VICTORIA, Texas — The rainy, windy weather system left over from Hurricane Claudette hurried across South Texas into Mexico on Wednesday after spreading damage along the coast and killing two people.

Roofs were peeled away, trailers were flattened, building facades collapsed and gas station canopies were twisted along the path the storm followed from its landfall on the Gulf Coast, the first hurricane to hit Texas in four years.

Claudette arrived Tuesday as a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained wind of 85 mph. By Wednesday morning, it had been downgraded to a tropical depression, with sustained wind speed down to 30 mph. Radar showed it roughly centered along the border in the Del Rio area.

American Red Cross workers were assessing the damage along the 261 miles of affected coastline, spokeswoman Suzanne Hogan said Wednesday.

"Today is going to reveal a much better picture of what disaster assistance will be needed," Hogan said in Port Lavaca.

Gov. Rick Perry signed a disaster relief proclamation to help speed state and federal response and authorized the National Guard to help with recovery. He also asked President Bush for a federal disaster declaration for 15 counties.

As the storm headed west Wednesday, authorities in the Mexican border states of Coahuila and Tamaulipas kept a wary eye on water levels in the Rio Grande.

The civil defense office in Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas, urged families living near the river to go to shelters.

"We are going to keep an eye on how much rain falls [upriver] in Piedras Negras," Nuevo Laredo Mayor Jose Suarez Lopez said.

Despite warnings that tropical storm tracks are hard to pinpoint in advance, Claudette caught many Texans off-guard with its changing speed and direction. As late as Sunday, the National Hurricane Center had said landfall was along the Texas-Mexico border. Then, as it turned and headed toward the Port O'Connor and Matagorda Bay area about 210 miles up the coast, meteorologists said it was likely to hit land late Tuesday. Instead, the eye crossed the coast around midday Tuesday.

Residents and vacationers complained forecasters didn't allow enough time to prepare.

In Victoria, Bertha Ramirez said her 74-year-old aunt might not have known to batten down the hatches by midday had she not called her earlier in the morning to warn that the storm had unexpectedly accelerated and was headed toward the city 40 miles inland from Port O'Connor.

"She didn't think it was coming until this evening," said Ramirez, who listened to Claudette howl and wait outside the generator-powered Target store where she worked.

"It's called the unpredictability of tropical storms," said Gene Hafele, a Houston-based National Weather Service meteorologist.

The storm dumped several inches of rain, flooding some low-lying areas, and wind gusted to nearly 100 mph.

In Jourdan, about 35 miles south of San Antonio, 13-year-old Clayton Dojahn was killed when a mesquite tree fell on him in his front yard, police said. A 33-year-old woman was killed in Victoria by a falling tree limb, authorities said.

Claudette also toppled radio and television towers in Victoria, knocking stations off the air.

Stacy Martin, a dispatcher with the Karnes County sheriff's office, said Claudette continued damaging roofs and downing power lines as it pushed inland through the area south of San Antonio.

"We've had a small twister in Kenedy, but it just knocked down a couple of buildings. There's no injuries to report of so far," Martin said.

Claudette's wind and punishing tides likely caused severe beach erosion along the coast. The first row of beach houses in Galveston and Brazoria counties could face condemnation if the state's General Land Office decides they intrude on beaches newly narrowed by Claudette.

It was the first hurricane to strike Texas since 1999, when Bret slammed into a largely unpopulated stretch between Corpus Christi and Brownsville. The last major hurricane to hit Texas was Alicia, which decimated the Houston-Galveston area in 1983.

# Scientists raise doubts about U.S. plan for missile defense

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An extensive study by a national group of scientists raised serious doubts Tuesday about the likely effectiveness of some weapons that President Bush is pursuing in his drive to develop a system for defending the United States against ballistic missile attack.

The study, by a 12-member group under the American Physical Society, the largest U.S. association of professional physicists, focused on a category of weapons intended to knock down enemy missiles soon after launch in their "boost phase."

It concluded that while the boost phase approach might provide some defense against longer-burning liquid-fueled missiles, such a system would push the limits of what is technically possible. Even more critically, the study found, boost phase weapons would likely prove entirely ineffective against faster, solid-fueled missiles that potential adversaries — notably, North Korea and Iran — are projected by U.S. intelligence analysts to possess within the next 10 to 15 years.

The study did not deal with the central part of Bush's program — a plan to install land-based interceptors in Alaska and California that would soar into space and obliterate enemy warheads arcing through their "midcourse phase" of flight. But Pentagon officials have acknowledged limitations to this approach and spoken of the need to supplement it eventually with boost phase weapons.

Delivering its findings in a 400-page report, the APS study group stopped short of calling the administration's expanded work on boost phase technologies a waste of money. At a news conference in Washington, group members declined to be drawn out on the policy implications of their analysis, saying the purpose of their nearly three-year study had been simply to address technical issues.

"We just wanted to bring the facts forward," said Daniel Kleppner, a physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and co-chairman of the study group.

But the group's lengthy critique is certain to complicate administration efforts to win congressional support for boost phase systems, on which Bush planned to spend nearly \$1 billion in 2004 out of a total \$9.1 billion proposed budget for missile defense.

Appropriations committees in both chambers of Congress already have voted to slash by half or more a Bush request for \$301 million to begin developing land- or sea-based boost phase interceptors.

Another boost phase program known as the Airborne Laser, which involves mounting a laser in a modified Boeing 747 jetliner and zapping missiles, is further along in development and expected to receive the \$626 million that Bush has sought for it. But weight problems and other technical glitches have bedeviled the program and forced delays in the first intercept attempt, now scheduled for 2005.

The Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency issued a statement Tuesday saying agency officials had not "had an opportunity to digest" the APS study but remained "confident" about the administration's course. "We continue to believe that boost phase technology has great potential for playing a vital role in a layered missile defense," the statement said.

## Head size, autism linked

CHICAGO — A study suggests that an early warning sign of the risk for autism may be abnormally fast growth in the size of an infant's head, a finding that could help doctors better diagnose the brain disorder.

Researchers say that if the findings are verified in further studies, then head growth could be used along with other behavioral and biological clues to possibly make earlier evaluations of autism in children.

Autism is a neurological disorder that affects the development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills.

## Sea Island, Ga., next G-8 summit site

ATLANTA — President Bush has chosen a posh island resort community on the Georgia coast to hold next year's meeting of leaders from the world's major industrial countries.

The White House announced Tuesday that Sea Island will be the site of the G-8 summit next June, a location Gov. Sonny Perdue described as "a great venue for security." The island 60 miles south of Savannah is close to several major military bases and a federal law enforcement training center.

Protesters have had a growing presence at the annual summits, where leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States meet to discuss economic and political issues.

Security at the summit will be run by the federal government, said Gordon Johnndroe, spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security. As a "national special security event," the summit would be protected by Homeland Security personnel, including those from the Secret Service, Coast Guard, and other agencies.

## Study: Half U.S. teachers highly qualified

WASHINGTON — Nearly half of the nation's middle and high school teachers were not highly qualified to teach their topics in 2000, a report to Congress says.

Federal law defines highly qualified teachers as those who hold a bachelor's degree from a four-year college, have state certification and demonstrate competence in the subject they teach.

A law passed last year requires that by the school year beginning in 2005, there must be highly qualified teachers in every class for core subjects, including English, math, science and history.

Meeting that deadline is "going to be challenging. It's going to be tough," Education Secretary Rod Paige said Tuesday. "But it's necessary, and it's going to be done."

Department officials used the federal definition as a guide in their report to assess teacher qualifications from the 1999-2000 school year. Only 54 percent of secondary teachers were highly qualified. Other figures ranged from 47 per-

cent for math teachers to 55 percent for science and social studies teachers.

## Man in critical condition after mauling

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — An Alaska man was reported in critical condition at an Anchorage hospital after been mauled early Tuesday by a brown bear at the Russian River campground on the Kenai Peninsula.

The victim was identified as Dan Bigley, 25. Witnesses said several brown bears — the Alaska term for a grizzly bear — were near the campground early Tuesday. One of them, a sow with two or three cubs, charged several people.

Bigley was reportedly with two companions, according to Alaska State Troopers. All three tried to avoid the bear, which charged them and grabbed Bigley from behind. After the attack, Bigley was flown to Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage.

## Blackhawks used to spot illegal entrants

TUCSON, Ariz. — Blackhawk helicopters are being used to spot illegal entrants along the border between Arizona and Mexico.

Operation Desert Safeguard began in June and is an effort of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Tucson Air Unit and the U.S. Border Patrol.

The Tucson Air Unit also continues its efforts to eradicate drug trafficking along the border.

"Primarily our focus is on narcotics. Now, our equal mission is immigration," said Brian Cook, a Tucson Air supervisor.

The effort has helped Border Patrol agents, who can wait at a predetermined area for a helicopter to arrive with illegal entrants.

In addition, it saves agents time from crossing vast swaths of empty desert in fruitless searches.

The unit also carries medical supplies and provides first aid to entrants, who may be suffering from dehydration and other heat-related issues.

## Girl, 13, faces trial as adult in stabbing

PENSACOLA, Fla. — A 13-year-old girl accused of cutting the throat of a childhood friend in a fight over fireworks will be tried as an adult on second-degree murder charges, a grand jury decided Tuesday.

Prosecutors had sought a first-degree indictment against Christine Rogers in the July 5 death of 15-year-old Ashley Harvey.

Police said the girls had argued earlier in the day, then began tossing lit fireworks at each other. Later, the dispute resumed, and Rogers chased Harvey with a butcher knife, cutting her throat in front of the duplex where Harvey lived with her mother.

From wire reports

## Congo may be first case for court

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The chief prosecutor of the new International Criminal Court identified its first potential case Wednesday, saying reports of rampant murder, torture and rape in Congo deserved investigation as crimes against humanity.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo said his team is watching events in the strife-torn African nation and will launch a preliminary investigation if it gets authorization from a pretrial judge. That would happen only if judicial authorities in Congo fail to prosecute war crimes suspects.

The announcement by the veteran Argentine prosecutor, who was sworn in last month, was meant to get the tribunal off to a quick start, at a time when the United States is threatening to sever military aid to countries that refuse to guarantee protection from the court to U.S. citizens on their soil.

The court has received nearly 500 complaints from 66 countries since it came into existence on July 1, 2002. Under its mandate, it can investigate war

crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, but only if they are committed in the territory or by citizens of the countries that ratified the 1998 Rome treaty.

Alternatively, a country that has not endorsed the treaty could ask the court to intervene in a conflict on its own territory. The U.N. Security Council also may request the court to open a case.

## 100 more feared dead in India floods

NEW DELHI, India — More than 100 people were feared dead in flash floods caused by a heavy rain Wednesday in a remote hill area in northern India, the state's top elected official said.

The victims were mostly migrant workers from Nepal and the Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh employed at the site of a hydroelectric project being built on a rivulet, said Birbadra Singh, chief minister of Himachal Pradesh state.

"The estimate so far is that 100, or more than 100, people have been killed," he said.

If the victims were indeed killed, their deaths would raise the toll from six weeks of monsoon rains in southeast Asia to more than 360.

Bangladesh has reported 154 dead, government relief officials said. Thousands are camping on mud embankments or the roofs of their submerged houses. There are shortages of food and drinking water, and they are beginning to suffer from waterborne diseases.

In Nepal, a landslide swept through the northeastern mountain village of Ikhabu, destroying two dozen houses and leaving at least four people missing, said Lekhnath Pokhrel of the Natural Calamity and Disaster Management Center in Katmandu. Floods, lightning strikes and mudslides have killed 67 people in Nepal.

In the eastern Indian state of Bihar, state officials said Wednesday that more than 1 million people have been affected by the floods, which have destroyed crops and almost 1,000 houses. The latest threat is from cholera and diarrhea, which has affected 250,000 people, District Magistrate Amrit Lal Meena said.

From wire reports

## Royal recognition

After four missions on her majesty's secret service, **Pierce Brosnan** is getting some recognition from **Queen Elizabeth II**.

Brosnan, star of the last four James Bond films, will be made an honorary OBE, or officer of the Order of the British Empire — honorary, because the 50-year-old actor is Irish.

"From his first steps as an actor at the Drama Centre of London, through numerous starring roles on stage and screen, Pierce Brosnan has captivated audiences at home in Ireland, here in the U.K. and across the world," **British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw** said Monday.

## Faces 'n' places

### Keeping it clean

**Sharon Osbourne** says she'll be watching her language on her new talk show.

Osbourne and her husband, **Ozzy Osbourne**, are known for their salty remarks on their MTV reality show.

"People come into my home [on MTV] and that's the way I choose to live my life," she said Sunday. "Now I'm coming into their homes."

"It just wouldn't be a cool thing," she said, to use

profanity on the syndicated talk show set to premiere in the fall.

Osbourne, who has managed her husband's career, said she's looking forward to exploring her "passions."

Meanwhile, Ozzy was a no-show at Saturday night's Ozfest concert at the new **White River Amphitheatre in Auburn, Wash.**

The singer was reportedly recovering from laryngitis, which had caused him to miss a few previous shows.

"Keep Ozzy in your prayers tonight," front man **David Draiman** told the crowd. "Let's hope he gets well soon."

From wire reports

## Inmate accused in child sex scandal

WAUPACA, Wis. — A prison inmate is accused of asking a woman he had befriended to groom two young girls to have sex with him once he was released.

Thomas C. Smith, 45, was charged Monday with two counts of conspiring to commit first-degree sexual assault of a child and one count each of conspiring to commit child enticement and conspiring to expose a child to harmful material. The 74-year-old woman was charged earlier in the case.

According to the complaint, the woman befriended Smith while he was in prison, and he then asked her to prepare the two girls. The charges against her stem from acts she is accused of committing on the older girl.

She is charged with conspiracy to expose a child to harmful materials, conspiracy to commit child enticement, conspiracy to commit first-degree sexual assault and conspiracy to commit repeated sexual assault of a child.

The two girls, one 11 and the other 9, were placed in protective custody.

## Injured hiker apparently killed self

CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo. — A man whose body was found in a 24-foot-deep mine shaft near Mount Pisgah last week apparently was injured in a fall and committed suicide rather than wait for rescue or death, Teller County authorities said.

A hiker found the body of **Lance Rezac**, 46, on July 6. An autopsy concluded he died of a gunshot wound sometime last fall.

Rezac's mother, **Donna Rezac**, said authorities might never know how long her son waited for help to come.

She said authorities found a broken rope and believe her son was trying to rappel into the shaft when the rope broke. He fell to the bottom and broke several ribs.

"It would be awful to think of someone just suffering down there," Donna Rezac said Tuesday.

Teller County Undersheriff **Marcus Woodward** said the coroner was unable to determine how long Rezac was in the shaft before he shot himself with a .32-caliber pistol.

But he said it was unlikely that Rezac could have survived long. No water bottles were found with him.

It also was unlikely that other hikers would have passed by the shaft, about three-quarters of a mile from a county road.

## Toddler dies in hot SUV

PARK CITY, Kan. — A 22-month-old girl died after being left all day in 100-degree temperatures in a sport utility vehicle her family had agreed to lend to relatives, authorities said.

**Alyssa Dillman** and her 4-year-old brother were dropped off by their father Monday morning at an uncle's house. He then drove away in another vehicle

without notifying the uncle, said Sedgwick County Sheriff's Maj. **Jackie Stuart**.

Stuart said the boy left the car and went inside his uncle's mobile home. When asked where his sister was, the boy said she was "sleeping," Stuart said. Stuart said the family apparently assumed the girl had stayed at home.

Alyssa was not found until 5:30 p.m., when her mother returned to pick the children up. She was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The high temperature that day was 109 degrees.

No charges were filed.

## Teen charged with assaulting lesbian

BOSTON — A 15-year-old girl was to be arraigned Wednesday on charges including aggravated assault and battery for a July 4th attack on a lesbian who had to get 200 stitches on her head, police said.

The teenager, who wasn't identified because of her age, was arrested Tuesday.

Boston police said in a news release its community disorders unit will attach civil rights violations to the teen's assault charge.

**Lisa Craig**, 35, was punched to the ground and kicked in the head by three teenage girls and a boy, as she bought ice cream after watching Independence Day fireworks in East Boston's Piers Park, police said. She was with her partner **Debbie Riley**, 37, and their two daughters. Earlier in the evening, the teenagers allegedly had shouted epithets at the couple.

Craig suffered bleeding in her brain and needed 200 stitches to close her wounds. Her purse also was stolen.

She said she was disappointed the suspect hadn't been charged with attempted murder.

"It was a hate crime," Craig said. "It was name calling. It was horrible."

## Magnolia may be cancer-fighter

ATLANTA — The Southern magnolia — the state tree of Mississippi — may have cancer-fighting properties, Emory University researchers said Wednesday.

Emory researchers found that seed cones from magnolia trees have an anti-tumor compound known as honokiol, an ingredient that's also found in a type of Japanese herbal medicine.

Researchers found honokiol can inhibit the growth of new blood vessels, a main cancer-fighting strategy.

## Lawyer arrested for alleged scheme

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal agents arrested a prominent plaintiffs' attorney Tuesday at the expensive home he allegedly helped pay for by bilking poor and disabled clients of more than \$2 million.

FBI and IRS agents arrested **Nikolai Tehin**, 56, in San Francisco without incident, according to federal prosecutors who charged him with mail fraud and money

laundering in a criminal complaint unsealed after his arrest.

Tehin allegedly operated a Ponzi scheme in which he took settlement funds owed to children born with birth defects to pay back funds to clients in a slumlord case he had already spent "to fund an extravagant lifestyle," according to an affidavit the FBI used to secure the complaint.

Those expenses allegedly included a home mortgage and repairs to his 73-foot yacht.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco, Tehin allegedly began his fraud in 2001 when he stole \$1.3 million owed to more than 100 low-income tenants in Napa as part of a case he won.

## Former surgeon sued

HILO, Hawaii — A surgeon accused of inserting a piece of a screwdriver into a patient's spine, instead of a titanium rod, has been sued for malpractice.

**Rosalinda Iturralde**, the sister of the patient who died last month, filed suit against **Dr. Robert Ricketson**. It was at least the eighth time Ricketson has been sued for malpractice, attorneys said.

According to the suit, filed Monday, when **Arturo Iturralde** underwent spine surgery in 2001, Ricketson had already had his medical license suspended in Oklahoma and revoked in Texas. His license was under review in Hawaii.

After the surgery began, the lawsuit claims, the doctor realized the rod he planned to insert was missing. The plaintiff says Ricketson used a hacksaw to cut a stainless steel screwdriver, then tightened it into place in the patient's spine.

Days later, the screwdriver snapped in half and Iturralde again underwent surgery for its removal. A nurse who later found it in the trash notified the family, attorneys said.

Iturralde underwent more surgeries, but eventually become a paraplegic.

Rosalinda Iturralde contends her brother died June 18 at age 76 because of complications from the surgery.

## Teen survives plunge down 2 falls

LONGVIEW, Wash. — Jacob Brown tried jumping a 3-foot gap on a trail along the Muddy River near Mount St. Helens. Next thing he knew, he was in cold, fast-moving water that sent him over a 65-foot waterfall, and then over a 25-foot drop.

"I really should have died," said Brown, 19, of Springfield, Ore., from his bed at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Ore. "I think it was my gymnastics training that saved me because I'm really limber. That's what saved me, knowing how to roll."

Brown plunged down two waterfalls — a total of about 90 feet — his back slamming into rocks and outcroppings before he landed in a shallow pool and pulled himself onto a rock in the river.

He had two cuts on his head, a small chip in his spine and a broken ankle.

From wire reports



# Blalock, AL make it count

## HR gives league victory, home-field advantage in Series

BY BEN WALKER

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — All those American League players who voted for Hank Blalock sure knew what they were doing.

Picked by his peers for the All-Star Game, the 22-year-old Texas third baseman delivered Tuesday night. And when his drive off Eric Gagne sailed over the fence for a two-run, pinch-hit homer in the eighth inning, the NL's claim on home-field advantage in the World Series was gone, too.

In a game that featured more strategy and passion than any exhibition, the unlikely shot capped the biggest All-Star comeback since 1955 and gave the AL a 7-6 victory.

Even though Blalock and the Texas Rangers will be home by October, he knew what was at stake.

"Just because I'm not going to be in the World Series doesn't mean I'm going to turn it down a notch," he said. Jason Giambi certainly appreciated it.

"I'm sure whoever reaches the World Series in a Game 7 or something like that will send him a 12-pack of something," the New York Yankees' slugger said.

So did Seattle reliever Shigetoshi Hasegawa, who was hit hard.

"I have already tipped him," he said. Said Blalock: "Oh, I don't expect any Christmas cards."

Giambi and Home Run Derby champion Garret Anderson also connected, be-

ginning the rally from a 5-1 deficit in the sixth inning. The AL posted its sixth straight victory, matching its longest winning streak.

The string does not include last summer's 7-7 tie in 11 innings.

Both teams ran out of pitchers in that game at Milwaukee, and the result was such a debacle that it prompted baseball to add some juice to the All-Star Game — under a two-year experiment, the league that wins it gets the home field in the Series.

This time, the outcome was in doubt until the final pitch, when Rafael Furcal flied out to the warning track. A home run would've made it 7-all, the same score that caused all the fuss last year.

"I'll take the blame for the NL not having the home-field advantage in the World Series," Gagne said. "I'm sorry, but that's the way it works when you're a closer. Hopefully, it will be the Dodgers in there so I can redeem myself."

The NL was supposed to have the home field this season under the old rotating system. It does make a difference — of the past eight Series to go to Game 7, the home team has won every one.

Now, for the first time since Detroit hosted the opener in 1934 and '35, the Series will start in the same league in consecutive years.

"We realize and recognize what was put on us and the stakes that were there," NL manager Dusty Baker said. "I'm not crazy about the outcome, even though it was a great game to watch and a great game to manage."

Anderson won the first Ted Williams MVP trophy. It was supposed to have been given out at last year's All-Star Game in Milwaukee, but the tie changed that.

Andruw Jones' two-run, pinch-hit double and solo homer gave the Nationals a 5-1 lead before Anderson hit a two-run homer in the sixth.

The NL still figured to be in a good shape with its vaunted lineup of closers Billy Wagner, Gagne and John Smoltz ready to finish it.

But Wagner gave up Giambi's solo shot in the seventh that made it 6-4 and Gagne, who has been successful on 39 straight save chances for Los Angeles, fell apart in the eighth.

Anderson doubled with one out for his third hit and Vernon Wells lined an RBI double with two outs. Blalock, batting for Troy Glaus, hit a long drive to right field — to the right of the big outfield sign that proclaimed the All-Star slogan, "This Time It Counts."

Blalock homered in his first All-Star at-bat. He's in his first full season, having been a bust as a heralded rookie last year.

Blalock is batting .323 with 14 home runs and 48 RBIs, stats that helped him finish first in player voting for starting spots.

Brendan Donnelly got the win with a scoreless eighth, and Keith Foulke pitched the ninth for a save. The AL closed its overall deficit in the series to 40-32-2.

From the start, it was evident both teams were intent on winning.

For the first time in years, each side had signs and signals.

And there was only one substitution for a position player before the fifth inning — last year, half the elected starters were out by the bottom of the fourth, with the likes of Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa and Manny Ramirez long gone.

"I think there were a lot of little subtleties," AL manager Mike Scioscia said.

Plus, there was an argument during a sequence that showed exactly how serious the teams were.

Todd Helton's two-run homer started the NL's five-run fifth, its biggest All-Star inning since 1969.

After Furcal singled as a pinch-hitter, Scioscia took out the right-handed Hasegawa and brought in lefty Eddie Guardado. Baker quickly countered, sending up the right-handed Jones to hit for lefty Jim Edmonds.

Jones hit a drive into the left-field corner for a two-run double. The speedy Furcal was awarded home, even though he started the play on first base, when a fan reached over the wall and gloved the ball.

Scioscia argued the call with plate umpire Tim McClelland, to no avail.

There was a scary moment when Edgar Martinez was beamed by Jason Schmidt. The 90-mph fastball cracked Martinez's helmet, but he was OK and stayed in.

Also, there were no security problems at U.S. Cellular Field, where a record crowd of 47,609 watched. Twice in the last two seasons, fans ran onto the field and attacked a coach and an umpire.

## Signings moratorium ends, but Clippers will make some wait

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

Five years after he entered the NBA as the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, Michael Olowokandi sorted out his options and decided to head to Minnesota.

The 7-foot, 270-pound Olowokandi, the first pick by the Los Angeles Clippers in 1998, agreed to a deal with the Timberwolves, agent Bill Duffy said early Wednesday morning. Olowokandi reportedly agreed to a three-year deal worth \$16.2 million.

The deal came after the league's two-week free agent signing moratorium ended at midnight EDT Wednesday.

Olowokandi was able to finalize a deal before former teammates Andre Miller and Corey Maggette. That's because Olowokandi was an unrestricted free agent, whereas Miller and Maggette are restricted — meaning their former team has 15 days to match any offer.

The Clippers reiterated Tuesday that they will take their time deciding whether to match offer sheets tendered to Miller by Denver and to Maggette by the Utah Jazz.

Those players — and several other free agents around the league — will

have to wait until Aug. 1 to know whether the Jazz and Nuggets still have as much salary cap room as they began the summer with.

The Clippers stand to lose at least half their roster if they choose not to re-sign any of their free agents. Included among them are Miller, Maggette, Lamar Odom, Brand, Olowokandi, Sean Rooks and Eric Piatkowski.

Brand has been offered more than \$60 million to stay with the Clippers, but has not decided whether to accept. His agent, David Falk, did not return a phone message Tuesday.

While Miller and Maggette are waiting, other teams will still be eager to sign the best of the remaining free agents. A few players will have to decide whether waiting out the Clippers will be worth the risk.

Jason Kidd and Alonzo Mourning will be with the Nets.

Another key player made an oral agreement Tuesday when Minnesota center Rasha Nesterovic accepted a six-year, \$42-million contract offer from the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs.

He had reportedly been considering a seven-year, \$50-million offer to stay with the Timberwolves, his team for his first five NBA seasons.

Adding Olowokandi, who will join All-Star forward Kevin Garnett in the

frontcourt, helps ease the Timberwolves' pain.

Nesterovic wasn't the Spurs' first choice, but they felt he was their best option after Kidd decided last week to remain in New Jersey for seven years and \$102 million.

A few other players reached verbal agreements Tuesday. The Milwaukee Bucks will sign Philadelphia forward Brian Skinner and Indiana guard Erick Strickland, coach George Karl said.

Other prominent free agents who have already reached agreement on contracts with their old teams include Jermaine O'Neal of the Pacers and P.J. Brown of the Hornets.

Also, Juwan Howard agreed to terms with Orlando and Kevin Ollie made a deal with Cleveland. Scottie Pippen was reportedly mulling a return to the Chicago Bulls five years after he helped them to their sixth title.

Spurs guard Speedy Claxton was being courted by the Detroit Pistons and their new coach, Larry Brown, and Wizards guard Tyrone Lue was speaking with the Nuggets.

Some of the other better known unrestricted free agents include Robert Horry and Samaki Walker of the Lakers, Elden Campbell of Seattle, Jim Jackson of Sacramento, Kenny Anderson of New Orleans, Orlando's Darrell Armstrong and Derrick Coleman of Philadelphia.

The list of restricted free agents includes Atlanta's Jason Terry and Seattle's Predrag Drobnjak.

Gilbert Arenas, who met with the Wizards on Monday, is a restricted free agent, but a complicated salary cap rule prevents Golden State from offering him more than \$4.9 million in the first year of a deal. The Wizards can surpass that figure by more than \$2 million.

Agent Dan Fegan has been seeking a starting salary of \$9 million for Arenas. Knicks General Manager Scott Layden said he did not expect to sign any free agents to offer sheets or contracts Wednesday.

The Knicks were one of the teams courting Nesterovic, a five-year veteran who will likely replace retired David Robinson in the Spurs' starting lineup.

The deal with Nesterovic still leaves the Spurs with more than \$8 million in salary cap space to pursue other players. Nesterovic averaged 11.2 points and 6.5 rebounds last season, the best numbers of his career. The loss of the 7-footer from Slovenia leaves the Timberwolves with only Ervin Johnson and Loren Woods as their centers.

Minnesota is one of several teams believed to be trying to work out a sign-and-trade deal for the Pacers' Miller.

### SWIMMING

BARCELONA, Spain — Russia's Alexander Dobroskok captured his second gold medal at the World Swimming Championships, winning the 3-meter springboard when teammate Dmitry Sautin made a mistake on his final dive.

Dobroskok scored 788.37 points followed by China's Peg Bo with 780.84 and Sautin with 776.64. Sautin had

been leading through the first five dives.

On the final dive, Dobroskok nailed a 2½ somersault with a 1½ twist. Sautin did a not-so-clean 1½ somersault with a 3½ twist.

In women's preliminary water polo, the United States beat France 15-3.

### Sports in brief

#### BASKETBALL

DETROIT — Prosecutors formally dropped their case against the father of Chris Webber, who was accused of lying to a grand jury investigating the dealings of a former Michigan basketball booster.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds

signed an order dismissing the indictments against Mayce Webber Jr., which included three counts of making false statements to the grand jury.

The reason for the dismissal, as noted in the order, was: "Weak or inadmissible sufficient evidence."

PORTLAND, Ore. — John Nash will be the general manager of the Portland Trail Blazers, team spokesman Mike Hanson said.

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# A rivalry lurks in the heather

## Woods, Els arrive at Royal St. George's on top of their games

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

SANDWICH, England — Tiger Woods and Ernie Els have everything it takes to form a major rivalry except for one critical piece — a Sunday showdown in a major championship.

Royal St. George's might be the perfect place to start.

Woods, without a major trophy for the first time in four years, shot down any suggestions he was in a slump two weeks ago by going wire-to-wire for a five-stroke victory in the Western Open, his fourth win of the season.

Els responded by leading from start to finish to win by five shots in the Scottish Open last week at Loch Lomond, his fifth victory of the year.

They arrived for the British Open on top of their games, a collision long overdue.

Might this finally be the week? "Yeah, I think so," Els said Tuesday. "Tiger is playing really well. And I think from all the press he's getting — not winning a major in a year, which I think is ridiculous — I think he's going to try to prove something."

"I'm looking for a good week. I've been playing well. Hopefully, it happens. I feel really good about this week. We'll just wait and see."

The prospect of Woods vs. Els has been brewing since the beginning of the year.

The Big Easy won the first two PGA Tour events in Hawaii, then added two more victories in Australia as Woods was recovering from surgery on his left knee.

Woods returned from an eight-week layoff by winning three of four tournaments.

But the majors? Those belonged to Mike Weir (Masters) and Jim Furyk (U.S. Open).

Woods finished out of the top 10 in both, falling out of contention with a bad swing at Augusta National and a bad third round at Olympia Fields.

"You're not going to win every one, but at least you can give yourself a chance on Sunday," Woods said. "That's one of the things I haven't been able to do."

Els finished better than Woods in both majors, although he was never a factor, either. Part of that was due to a sore wrist from working out with a punching bag.

"I'm feeling physically as good as I've ever been," Els said. "My rhythm has come back nicely. My short game is good. My long game is good. There's no reason why I shouldn't be playing well now."

Els is the defending champion in the

British Open, having survived a four-man playoff that required five holes last year at Muirfield. Still, he knows he's not the player everyone is chasing on the lunarlike landscape of Royal St. George's.

"Other players are getting better," Els said. "But Tiger is still there."

For Woods, there has been a revolving door of rivals since he crashed onto the PGA Tour with his 12-stroke victory in the 1997 Masters — Els, David Duval, Sergio Garcia, Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh, and back to Els.

Even though seven players have won at least twice this year, the gap remains.

"After the first couple of majors this year, you would feel that the players are closing on Tiger, wouldn't you?" Nick Faldo said. "But I'm sure Tiger is more than aware of that. He's going to make a big effort this week."

Woods, as usual, won't be baited into a rivalry — not even with Els, a close friend.

"There are more than just the two of us playing the event," he said. "If you were playing a match-play event, just he and I, one-on-one, that's a different story."

That wasn't a story in the Match Play Championship, when Els was beaten in the first round and Woods went on to win at La Costa.

But there is a history of dramatic battles among the best at Royal St. George's.

The last time the British Open was held on the links just north of the English Channel, in 1993, Greg Norman held off a collection of the world's best players — Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Nick Price, Fred Couples, Corey Pavin.

Woods doesn't believe that was by accident.

"This golf course rewards quality golf shots," he said. "You can't go out here and play poorly and contend. You have to play solidly for 72 holes. And you've got to be very patient. If you look at the guys on top of that board in '93... all were playing well at the time."

One of those guys was Els, a 23-year-old who came to Royal St. George's looking for experience and shot four rounds in the 60s to tie for sixth.

That could be a huge advantage this week.

Luck and local knowledge might be as important as skill, especially with severely undulating fairways that can send even the best drives into the rough.

"Guys who have played here before definitely have a bit of an advantage," Els said. "It is a golf course unlike any of the other links. At times, you think you're playing on the moon."

## Lakers sign Malone, Payton just after end of moratorium

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — True to their word, future Hall of Famers Karl Malone and Gary Payton signed contracts with the Los Angeles Lakers. And they did so at just about the earliest possible moment.

Team spokesman John Black said Malone and Payton, who verbally committed to join the Lakers at discount prices last week, signed shortly after midnight EDT on Wednesday.

A moratorium on free agent signings expired Tuesday night.

Beginning at 12:01 a.m., free agents were allowed to sign contracts.

Malone, the second-leading scorer in NBA history who is considered perhaps the greatest power forward ever,

signed a two-year contract worth just over \$3 million, Black said.

Malone, who earned \$19 million last season in his 18th and final season with the Utah Jazz, will earn the veteran's exception of \$1.5 million next season.

He turns 40 later this month.

Payton, five years younger, also signed a multiyear contract. He established himself as one of the NBA's finest point guards in Seattle, where he played for nearly 12 seasons before being traded to Milwaukee this past season.

The players will be introduced Thursday morning at a news conference at Staples Center.

Payton, who earned \$12 million last season, will make \$4.9 million in his first year with the Lakers.

Black and Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak had dinner at a West

Los Angeles restaurant Tuesday night with Payton and his agent, Aaron Goodwin, and Malone's agent, Dwight Manley.

Lakers front office employees Ronnie Lester and Bill Bertka were also present.

Malone faxed in his contract from Arkansas shortly after it was allowed to be signed.

"We drank a toast and Mitch went home to get some sleep for probably the first time in at least a week," Black said.

Malone and Payton will join Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant in a star-studded Lakers lineup.

Other Los Angeles returnees next season are Derek Fisher, Devean George, Rick Fox, Slava Medvedenko, Kareem Rush and Jannero Pargo.

The Lakers won three straight NBA championships before being eliminat-

ed in six games in the Western Conference semifinals by the eventual champion San Antonio Spurs two months ago.

Kupchak made it clear in the aftermath that major changes were in store.

Neither Malone nor Payton have played on a championship team.

Payton and the Sonics played in the NBA Finals once and the Jazz reached the Finals twice during Malone's time there — all during the 1990s.

In all three cases, the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls won titles.

"When Karl said what he was going to do, I figured I couldn't miss that chance, playing with the Lakers," Payton said over the weekend in Miami.

"With four great players like us playing with each other, we're going to have a great chance to win a championship."

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Nash is the former GM of Philadelphia, Washington and New Jersey.

ORLANDO, Fla. — The NBA denied the Orlando Magic salary cap relief for often-injured Grant Hill.

The medical exemption would have been worth about \$4.9 million — approximately one-third of the \$13.3 million due to Hill next season.

Hill has had four operations since he sustained a stress fracture to his left ankle during the 2000 playoffs while playing for Detroit. The Magic signed him to a \$93-million, seven-year contract that offseason.

### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Kentucky Wesleyan College agreed to forfeit all men's basketball victories from last season after the NCAA found the school committed two secondary infractions.

The college, which has won eight men's NCAA Division II titles, announced that it will not appeal the NCAA ruling. The violations stemmed

## Sports in brief continued

from an investigation into the eligibility of two unidentified transfer players.

### OLYMPICS

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — U.S. weightlifter Edris Gonzales was suspended for six years after testing positive for testosterone use.

Gonzales showed elevated ratios of testosterone-epitestosterone at an out-of-competition test Feb. 21. He accepted the suspension, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said.

### FOOTBALL

NEW YORK — Former Pro Bowl tackle Chester McGlockton signed with the New York Jets. He is a 12-year veteran who was released by the Denver Broncos in February for financial reasons.

### HORSE RACING

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Seven-

teen illegal immigrants working at the Saratoga Race Course were arrested by immigration officials and police in a raid.

Eleven were from Mexico, four from Chile and two from Guatemala, Saratoga Springs police Sgt. Gary Forward said.

### AUTO RACING

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Safety manufacturer Bill Simpson dropped a defamation lawsuit that accused NASCAR of wrongly blaming his former company's seat belt for Dale Earnhardt's death.

The \$8.5 million suit was filed last year in Indianapolis and was set for trial in September, but Simpson and NASCAR representatives resolved their differences Monday.

INDIANAPOLIS — IRL driver Felipe Giaffone was moved to a rehabilitation hospital and will spend at least a week there.

Giaffone broke his right leg and pelvis in a crash July 6 in the Kansas 300.

He said he could spend as much as three weeks in the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — NASCAR penalized one of Roush Racing's truck series teams for using illegal engine parts.

Crew chief Doug Richert was assessed \$25,000 for using unapproved cylinder heads in Carl Edwards' Ford when it won last weekend at Kentucky Speedway.

Edwards was stripped of 100 driver points and Jack Roush was docked 100 owner points.

### SOCCER

GENEVA — A female referee will officiate at the UEFA Cup for the first time next month when she works a men's game between Swedish and Icelandic teams in the European club competition.

Switzerland's Nicole Petignat, a top referee for women's games, was chosen Tuesday by European soccer's ruling body to officiate the qualifying round game between AIK Solna of Sweden and Iceland's Fylkir on Aug. 14.

From The Associated Press